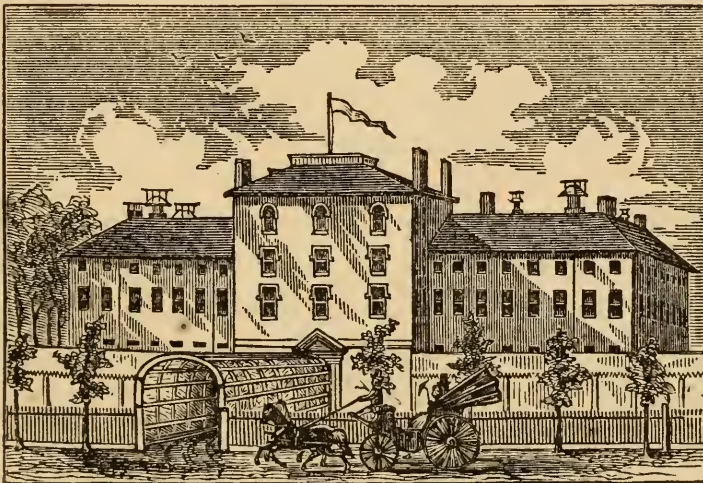


PUBLIC DOCUMENT.....

.....No. 25.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INSPECTORS
OF THE
STATE ALMSHOUSE,



AT BRIDGEWATER.

OCTOBER, 1864.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council
of the Commonwealth.*

The Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater, respectfully present their Eleventh Annual Report, for the year ending September the 30th, 1864; accompanied by the reports of the Superintendent, the Physician and the Chaplain.

During the past year, as heretofore, the Inspectors have visited the almshouse together once in each month to examine and audit the accounts of the Superintendent, to visit the schools, the hospitals and the inmates of the several wards; and one of them has uniformly visited the establishment once each week, and as much oftener as has been deemed expedient.

As the result of their visits and examinations, they take pleasure in expressing their satisfaction with the general condition of the almshouse, of the system, the order and discipline throughout its management by the Superintendent, whose knowledge of human nature and whose long experience in the government of this and similar institutions enable him to discriminate judiciously, to administer kindness, comfort and relief when and where needed; and at the same time to govern and control the obdurate transgressor with no unnecessary severity.

The uniform cleanliness and ventilation of the hospitals, the bathing-rooms and the numerous apartments of the buildings,

with the personal neatness and wholesome diet of the inmates, are the main contributors to their health and comfort ; which are alike creditable to the Superintendent, his lady, the chief matron, and the liberality of the Commonwealth.

The whole number of inmates received into this almshouse since it was first opened in 1854, is 14,088.

The number admitted during the year past is 1,051.

The number now in the almshouse, 485.

The number of deaths during the year past has been greater than in the preceding year ; whole number, 180.

The number now sick in the hospitals is less than usual at this season of the year.

Many and disastrous as are the evils of war, the increase of paupers in the State almshouses does not seem to be one of them. One probable reason for this is that many, who, in years past, have spent much of their time in this and kindred institutions, whose fathers, sons or brothers are now in the army or navy receiving pay for their services, have enabled their families at home, at least, many of them, to live upon their own resources ; but the unparalleled increase in the price of all the necessaries of life has unavoidably increased the expenses of the past year for the same quantity of similar articles of subsistence as heretofore furnished. But by a strict economy in every department, by curtailing all expenses not absolutely required for present wants, no inconsiderable amount has been saved that under other and better circumstances, when it did not cost "all of life to live," might be deemed proper and necessary.

One item of expense, and not the smallest, arises from furnishing the large number of children frequently transferred from this to another almshouse with a new suit of clothes each, when removed.

Previous to the current year, it has been the uniform practice to send the State paupers from Suffolk County alternately to Tewksbury and Bridgewater ; which gave to each a fair proportion. From the latter part of May last to the first week in September, the present month, no State paupers have been sent to the Bridgewater Almshouse from Suffolk County ; in consequence of which course, the number at Bridgewater Almshouse has been greatly reduced, and the *pro rata* expense very

much increased ; and during the latter part of spring and the entire summer, there have not been sound, able-bodied men or women enough among the inmates to do the necessary work in the house or on the farm.

Could those admitted here to be cured of some acute or temporary disease be retained, when restored to health, until some portion of the expense incurred in restoring their health is paid, no injustice would be done to such inmate, and much trouble and expense might be saved to the Commonwealth.

The general health of the inmates, considering their habits of life previous to their admission to the almshouse, their physical condition when received, and the impaired state of mind of most of them, is comparatively good ; better than the health of those of the same class, character and habits outside of the institution.

This condition arises, not generally from any innate taste for the bathing-tub, which they ignore, but from a strict observance of the laws of health required from all the inmates ; such as cleanliness, regular hours, wholesome diet, and a due regard to the development of the physical as well as the mental and moral powers.

The number of those confined in the hospitals at the present time is small ; but the number of idiotic, the aged, infirm, demented and children, is comparatively very large.

But few repairs have been made upon the buildings the past year, and these at small expense.

Two schools for the children have been in operation during the year, taught by the Misses Marston and Warner, both of them faithful and successful teachers.

The various branches of a common school education are here taught, and the children have made encouraging and commendable progress in their studies. Their general behaviour in school and out of it, will lose nothing by comparison with our common schools of the same grade ; especially is such the fact with those sent here in early childhood.

Miss Marston, after several years of faithful teaching, has resigned ; and Miss Robertson has been recently appointed her successor, and has now entered upon the duties of the school.

It is in contemplation to enlarge the play-ground, appropriated for the exercise and recreation of the children ; by which

change a better air, and more of it, and more room for exercise will be furnished for the children.

Religious services are held in the chapel on each Sabbath as usual, by the Chaplain, Rev. P. L. Cushman, whose faithful preaching, upon moral and religious subjects, seldom fails to secure the respectful attention of his audience, and to impress upon their minds lessons of useful instruction.

The singing on the Sabbath is performed by a choir of children, with their teacher, and constitutes an interesting part of public and social worship.

The sick are cared for by a kind and intelligent physician, Dr. Samuel Young, the Resident Physician, and by faithful nurses. The hospitals are capacious, neat, and furnished with fresh air. But few inmates, who, when admitted here are healthy and free from disease, are afterwards subjects for the hospital or require medical aid.

The number of deaths in the almshouse during the year now last past has exceeded the number of the preceding year; the number of sick now in the hospitals is less than usual.

The immediate care and attention of those in the hospitals is confided to the Resident Physician, and under his direction to the nurses in the several wards of the hospitals. Dr. Millet, the Consulting Physician, is in attendance whenever his services are required. To the report of Dr. Young, the Resident Physician, we refer for a more particular and detailed account of the sick and diseased inmates and the condition of the hospitals generally.

The farm has lost nothing of its interest or value. The improvements made upon it have been gradual, but steady and sure, alike in the soil and in the quantity and quality of its productions.

From the purchase of the farm by the State to the present time, it has been under the care and culture of the present Superintendent, than whom few better understand how to convert the barren waste into green pastures, or cause the wilderness to blossom and bring forth food for man and beast.

A large crop of hay in excellent condition has been gathered into the capacious barns, and the meadows and fields now present an abundant supply of feed for the flocks and herds upon the farm.

A large outlay was made in the vegetable kingdom during seed-time, which, though not yet garnered, but having been injured by the severe drought in the summer, does not give promise of the usual abundant harvest.

The stock of horses, oxen, cows, swine and poultry are about the same in number and quality as when last reported. Seventeen cows are kept upon the farm; but these do not furnish a supply of milk for the inmates. The number of cows is steadily increased with the increase of subsistence for them on the farm; it having been ascertained by long experience that it costs less to buy milk for the inmates than to buy feed for the cows.

In several of our former Reports we have suggested the necessity of an additional building for the insane, the demented and idiotic.

Allow us once more to ask your attention to that subject and most respectfully to urge the necessity of such a building, (not a large one,) as well on the grounds of humanity as of convenience, in which the class of inmates above described may be kept quiet and apart from the other inmates; especially from those confined in the hospitals. Such a building would be alike beneficial to the insane, the sick and to those situated in rooms adjacent to the insane wards. The insane would there be retired and free from causes of excitement; the sick and other inmates would be relieved from the great annoyance to which many are now unavoidably exposed; the labor and vigilance now required in taking care of the insane would be less arduous, because the insane inmates would be more calm and less excited; and the rooms now occupied by the insane might be used for other purposes for which they are very much needed.

In our frequent visits to this almshouse, we have noticed with much satisfaction the marked influence for good, resulting from the theory and practice of government, discipline and instruction, manifest in every department. Their tendency and results are to improve the mental, moral and physical status of the inmates; the obdurate are subdued; the timid are encouraged; order and decorum are preserved and system becomes a habit.

Could a more intimate knowledge be diffused of the system adopted and carried out in these State institutions of charity,

these homes of the unfortunate subjects of poverty and want, a better understanding of the plan and its results would be obtained ; many doubts might, and as we believe, would be removed, and many conflicting and apparently antagonistic opinions changed.

For a more particular and detailed account of the financial condition of the State almshouse at Bridgewater, of its receipts and expenditures, we refer to the report of the Superintendent, which is hereto appended ; and which furnishes an accurate, full and clear account of the state and condition of this institution.

JAMES FORD,
J. B. THAXTER,
ASA MILLET,
Inspectors.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1864.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater :

GENTLEMEN,—The following shows the business transactions of this institution for the year now closed :

SUMMARY OF INMATES.

Number in the house, Oct. 1, 1863,	. . . . .	536 .
admitted during the year,	. . . . .	1,051
supported during the year,	. . . . .	1,587
discharged, returned, &c., &c.,	. . . . .	922
died,	. . . . .	180
remaining, Oct. 1, 1864,	. . . . .	485
Number of men, 102 ; women, 194 ; boys, 98 ; girls, 91.		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Amount of annual appropriation for the year 1864,	
unexpended,	. . . . . \$11,394 08
Amount of liabilities,	. . . . . 000 00
Value of real estate, on the first day of October, 1864, as appraised by David Bryant, Esq., appointed and duly sworn,	. . . . . 108,854 00
Value of personal estate, on the first day of October, 1864, appraised as above,	. . . . . 48,950 75
Appropriation unexpended for the year 1862 and transferred by vote to the year 1863, and now reverted to the State treasury,	. . . . . 1,171 40
Appropriation unexpended for the year 1863 and transferred by vote to 1864,	. . . . . 2,443 69

Amount of expenditures for salaries and all other
current expenses, for 1863-4, \$33,322 83

Amount for extraordinary expenses, such as build-
ing piazza, piggery, painting and furnishing blinds
for the buildings; also completing new barn and
building yards, 2,640 66

Amount of cash drawn from the treasury since Oct.

1, 1863, for current expenses, \$31,657 51

Amount of cash from sales, for current expenses, . 1,665 32

Total for current expenses for the year, . . \$33,322 83

Cash on hand, none.

ASSETS.

Real estate; one hundred and fifty-six acres of land, with buildings, the latter consisting of the main house with right and left wings and returns, forming a hollow square. The central part of this building is four stories high, with wings three stories high. There are, also, one stone building, used for baking, cooking and washing, one large pest-house, two large barns, one engine-house, one carriage-shed, one cart and wood-shed, one large shop building, used for various purposes, one blacksmith-shop, one ice-house, one dead-house, one field shed, two closet buildings; also, near to and in front of main buildings, one large arbor; and one pump-house,—all to the value of \$108,854.

PERSONAL ESTATE AND ITS VALUE.

Horses,	\$425 00
Cattle,	2,453 50
Swine,	1,033 35
Fowls,	80 50
Carriages and agricultural implements,	2,141 84
Machinery and mechanical fixtures,	4,319 17
Beds and bedding in inmates' department, . .	13,589 75
Other fixtures in inmates' department,	2,216 26
Personal property in Superintendent's department,	3,386 07
Ready-made clothing,	9,437 70
Dry goods,	890 98

Provisions and groceries,	\$2,253 57
Drugs and medicines,	500 34
Fuel,	1,417 30
Library,	516 49
Produce of farm,	4,288 93

RECEIPTS.

Amount of annual appropriation for the year 1864,	\$23,605 92
Amount of unexpended appropriation for the year 1863, and by vote transferred to the year 1864, .	8,051 59
Amount from sales of stock, &c.,	1,665 32
<hr/>	
Total receipts for the current expenses of the insti- tution for the year,	\$33,322 83
Amount received from unexpended appropriations and transferred by vote for extraordinary ex- penses,	2,640 66
Amount from all other sources,	000 00
<hr/>	
Total receipts for the year,	\$35,963 49

CURRENT EXPENDITURES IN DETAIL.

Salaries of Inspectors.

James Ford, one year,	\$160 00
J. B. Thaxter, "	160 00
Asa Millett, eight months,	106 67
J. H. Mitchell, four months,	53 33
<hr/>	
Total, salaries of Inspectors,	\$480 00

SALARIES OF HOUSE OFFICERS.

Morrill Robinson, <i>Physician</i> , 6 months,	\$175 00
S. L. Young, " 6 "	400 00
Asa Millett, <i>Consulting Physician</i> , 7 months,	58 33
S. A. Orr, " " 5 "	41 67
P. L. Cushing, <i>Chaplain</i> , 1 year,	200 00
L. L. Goodspeed and wife, <i>Superintendent and</i> <i>Matron</i> ,	1,500 00
Wm. C. Howland, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> , 1 year,	500 00
Galen Conant, <i>Farmer</i> , 1 year,	425 00

J. H. Hamblin, <i>Engineer</i> , 1 year,	\$352 50
J. H. Marshall, <i>Watchman</i> , 1 year,	335 00
E. G. Wood, <i>Nurse</i> , 7 months,	210 00
John Smithick, " 3½ "	105 00
A. J. Calliany, <i>Clerk</i> , 6 "	75 00
J. A. Lothrop, " 6 "	30 00
A. E. Hayward, <i>Farmer</i> , ½ month,	12 50
M. B. Hanley, <i>Assistant Matron</i> , 10½ months, . .	194 75
Julia Decker, " " 13 "	224 00
Margaret Youdell, " " 1 year,	225 00
Belinda Palmer, " " 1 "	208 00
Rebecca Stinchfield, <i>Assistant Matron</i> , 5 months, .	84 00
Ann Youdell, " " 1¼ "	18 00
S. S. Marston, <i>Teacher</i> , 10½ months,	210 00
H. A. Jenkins, " 4 "	66 00
Julia A. Warner, " 8 "	133 33
Francis Robinson, " 1 "	17 00
Paid sundry persons for labor,	384 13
<hr/>	
Total for salaries, wages and labor,	\$6,664 21

PROVISIONS AND SUPPLIES.

Meats of all kinds,	\$3,783 26
Fish " "	404 63
Fruit and vegetables,	198 27
950 barrels of flour,	7,534 03
1,000 bushels of grain for stock,	1,370 00
134 " " " table,	180 61
Tea, coffee, chocolate and shells,	886 25
Sugar and molasses,	954 69
Milk,	329 76
Butter and cheese,	537 54
Salt and other groceries,	435 00
All other provisions,	821 74
<hr/>	
Total for provisions and supplies,	\$17,435 78

Dry goods, bedding, clothing and furniture, . .	\$4,384 02
Fuel and lights,	422 67
Medicines and medical supplies,	448 36
Transportation expenses,	455 92

MISCELLANEOUS ENUMERATED.

Labor of mechanics,	\$105 97
Lime, lumber, cement and bricks,	56 19
Beef and farm stock,	1,262 86
Incidental expenses,	85 03
School and record books, stationery, &c.,	150 78
Post office expense,	22 60
Hay and straw,	473 28
Brooms, brushes, baskets, lines and pins,	133 23
Crockery, tin, glass and hardware,	142 30
Stoves, pipe and furnace repairs,	342 90
Blacksmith and carriage work,	133 77
Soap and material,	124 85
Tobacco, snuff and pipes,	234 97
Farm implements and seeds,	171 42
Glass and putty,	11 38
Cattle pasture,	60 34
<hr/>	
Total current expenditures,	\$33,322 83

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES.

Finishing new barn,	\$293 48
Painting main buildings,	419 25
Blinds and fixtures for house,	716 12
Building piazza,	393 08
piggery,	256 99
additional yards,	408 49
Rebuilding oven,	49 25
Building farm gates,	61 50
walls for yard,	42 50
<hr/>	
Total extraordinary expenses,	\$2,640 66
Liabilities,	000 00

CASH.

Dr.

To amount expended for—

Salaries, wages and labor,	\$6,664 21
Provisions and supplies,	17,435 78
Dry goods, clothing, beds and furniture,	4,384 02

To amount expended for—

Fuel and lights,	\$422 67
Medicines and medical supplies,	448 36
Transportation expenses,	455 92
Miscellaneous items,	3,511 87
Total,	\$33,322 83

Cr.

By cash on hand Oct. 1, 1863,	\$000 00
drawn from State treasury at sundry times for the payment of the current expenses of the institution,	31,657 51
from sales of stock for the same,	1,665 32
on hand, Oct. 1, 1864,	000 00
Total credit for current expenses,	\$33,322 83
for extraordinary expenses,	2,640 66
Total credit for all expenses,	\$35,963 49

SUMMARY OF THE ABOVE.

Total Receipts,	\$35,963 49
Total Expenditures,	35,963 49
Cash on hand,	000 00
Total Liabilities,	000 00
Total Debts due the institution,	000 00

The current expenses of the institution for the year 1863-4, have been \$33,322.83, as appears by the following account current:—

Cash on hand Oct. 1, 1863,	\$000 00
drawn from State treasury for current ex- penses,	\$31,657 51
from all other sources for do.,	1,665 32
on hand Oct, 1, 1864,	000 00
	\$33,322 83

Drawn from State treasury during the year for extraordinary expenses,	\$2,640 66
Total sum drawn from treasury,	<u>\$34,298 17</u>

During the year the average number of inmates has been 560. Dividing the current expenses by the average number of inmates gives an average annual cost of \$59.50+, and an average weekly cost of \$1.14+.

Increased cash value of assets, \$7,666 83

Another year's business has been transacted without the occurrence of any events, except the ordinary routine, presenting little or nothing that is new or of interest, save what has been stated in former reports. Your frequent visits and weekly examinations into all the details, have so well informed you upon all matters pertaining to the management of the institution, that any remarks from me must be but a mere repetition.

The class of persons admitted here, discharged, and again admitted, so frequently, for more than ten years, are very similar in character, with the exception of those afflicted with no disease, but a dislike for work, and those whose disease is intemperance. With these two classes, there has been of late, a very great falling off, so that it may be said during the past season, at least, the condition of the inmates admitted here, has become somewhat changed, being almost entirely composed of children and adults—the latter so broken down as to incapacitate them for labor.

The institution has now been in operation more than ten years, and the tax-payers have a right, and with reason, to expect such results from the farm products, as will reduce more perceptibly the money appropriation.

That our hopes and promises in this department have not been any more successful, has not been for want of interest or vigor in the prosecution of the farm work, but from the unfavorable season, and the almost entire absence of inmate labor capital.

As much hired labor has been employed as was thought profitable, and as the season has proved, perhaps less would

have been more economical. The harvest of hay, oats and potatoes is good, but owing to the severe drought, it is not probable that one-quarter part of the root crop of some former seasons will be grown, the loss of which, in a family like this, can only be repaired by purchase with funds from the appropriation, that we should be glad to leave in the treasury.

Taking into account the greatly increased prices of all articles used in the institution, together with a more expensive class of inmates to provide for, and the increased cost, pro rata, will readily be accounted for. This, of course, has been the experience of every family during the present season. In this respect we should have suffered much more, but for an unusual supply of provisions, bought and on hand in the early part of the year. We shall not be obliged to purchase coal, at the present prices, having of last year's stock more than one hundred tons.

Improvements of a general character have not, the past year, received as much attention as formerly, because no laborers have been here, and to do much of it with hired ones, with the extravagant prices asked, together with the short day system now in use, seemed like poor economy. As before stated, the arable land, or that portion of it under cultivation, has received all the attention needed, and but for circumstances beyond control, the results of the present year would have been most gratifying.

Some improvements and repairs about the buildings, alluded to in the statements of last year, have been attended to, such as painting all the buildings, placing blinds upon the greater part of the house, also building a piazza on the front part of the central house.

The barn erected last season is completed, unless the proposed wing, corresponding with the one on the other barn, should be built. The piggery, adjacent to the new barn, is finished, and with the exception of some additional wall, and grading at the entrance, no more labor will be required.

As I stated last year, we have a building well adapted to the wants of the institution; in fact we could hardly get on without it; and built too, at a cost of a little more than half now required for such a purpose.

During the autumn, some slight repairs upon the slate roof will be needed, as usual.

The furnaces, pipes, and other fixtures needing ordinary repairs having been attended to, it is believed that the general condition of the buildings and fixtures will not suffer in comparison with any former year.

About the usual number of insane and demented are still cared for here, as in former years, and I take the liberty to say that another year's experience has not in the least changed, except to strengthen my view in regard to the necessity of providing a separate building for their occupancy. Could permission and means be procured for such a building, for the care of this class of women, it would so much relieve the wards, in a portion of the main house, that advantages would be secured to another class of the inmates, of too great importance to be lost sight of.

I am well aware that the calls for an outlay of money to erect additional buildings at our State almshouses should be well considered, and in these trying times withheld, unless it be a case of absolute necessity; and such this does seem to be, if this class of our State paupers is to be supported here, and their best interests, as well as the others, is to decide.

As heretofore, the schools form an interesting and prominent feature of the institution, two of which have been in operation through the year, affording facilities for improvement, far beyond those in some of our public schools in the country towns. If the great object to be attained in maintaining these schools, is, in the main, a set kind of show, or perhaps what some would call a sort of dress parade, or more properly a practice, sure to deceive both scholar and citizen, then our chance of success would be better if the eldest and healthiest children were left here a longer term, after getting through the first rudiments, instead of transferring them to another institution; but if the object be solely the best interests of the children, keeping in view, that when they become men and women, they shall know how to take care of themselves, and others too, if need be, then this important branch of our charity has not been neglected.

The chaplaincy still continues in charge of the Rev. P. L. Cushing, who has made the same effort, as heretofore, to interest his hearers in things pertaining to religion. The way of salvation is made so plain to them, that all may understand it, and

if they fail to obey the commandments of Christ, they cannot point to the unfaithfulness of their pastor as a reason for not having on the wedding garment. Under his wise admonitions and judicious counsels, we must hope for good results.

Well knowing your desire to advance the interests of the institution in all its parts, I would suggest for your consideration, whether a more efficient and economical administration of its affairs might not be secured by allowing all the employees to provide their own living, instead of the present system of furnishing it at the expense of the house. Of course additional pay would be required, but whether to the amount of the cost of board as now provided, is for you to consider. If it resulted in no other advantage, it would at least confer upon them the privilege of living more expensively than now, if they desired.

Respectfully submitted.

L. L. GOODSPEED.

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1864.

NAMES OF OFFICERS AND SALARIES.

James Ford, J. B. Thaxter, and Asa Millet, *Inspectors*.

Salary of each, \$160.

L. L. Goodspeed and wife, <i>Superintendent and Matron</i> ,	\$1,500 00
S. L. Young, <i>Physician</i> ,	800 00
Asa Millet, <i>Consulting Physician</i> ,	100 00
P. L. Cushing, <i>Chaplain</i> ,	200 00
W. C. Howland, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> ,	500 00
Galen Conant, <i>Farmer</i> ,	450 00
A. E. Hayward, <i>Farmer</i> ,	300 00
J. H. Hamblin, <i>Engineer</i> ,	360 00
John Smithick, <i>Nurse</i> ,	360 00
Orrin Ramsdell, <i>Watchman</i> ,	300 00
Margaret Youdell, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	225 00
Julia Decker, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	208 00
Belinda Palmer, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	208 00
Rebecca Stinchfield, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	208 00
Ann Youdell, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	182 00
Julia A. Warner, <i>Teacher</i> ,	200 00
Frances Robinson, <i>Teacher</i> ,	200 00

P H Y S I C I A N ' S R E P O R T .

*To the Board of Inspectors of the State Almshouse at
Bridgewater.*

GENTLEMEN,—The Eleventh Annual Report of the Medical Department of this institution is herewith respectfully submitted.

SUMMARY.

Number of patients admitted to the hospital, . . .	1,092
discharged,	819
of deaths the past year,	180
now remaining in hospital,	93

For a more particular account of the principal diseases treated, the causes of death, the births, parentage, age, sex, &c., you are referred to the tables which accompany this report.

The whole number of deaths which have occurred since the opening of the institution is nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and the approximate ages were as follows :

Eighty years and upwards,	60
Between seventy and eighty,	86
sixty and seventy,	134
fifty and sixty,	150
forty and fifty,	158
thirty and forty,	236
twenty and thirty,	253
ten and twenty,	86
five and ten,	81
two and five,	163
one and two,	172
Under one year,	418
Total,	1,997

It seems proper to state that the tables which accompany this report were prepared at the request of the Secretary of the Board of State Charities. In preparing a table of all the diseases to which human nature is liable, we meet with much difficulty in making a proper classification. In the following tables, the plan of the Secretary has been pursued in the main, and when departed from, the object was not so much to alter the arrangement of the tables as to condense them. For instance, marasmus is classed among the diseases of the alimentary canal. But it is not such, but more properly, perhaps, a disease of the mesenteric glands. Syphilis and rupia are classed among the skin diseases. But they are not diseases of the skin primarily. Other instances might be specified where similar liberty has been taken, but it is deemed unnecessary.

An examination of Table No. 2, will show there has been but little disease among the children during the past year. Hardly a death has occurred among them from disease contracted in the institution. When we consider the average number of children in the institution was but little short of two hundred, this slight mortality seems remarkable. The few cases of death among this class of inmates were of foundlings and of children abandoned by their parents. These children are generally in a very feeble and exhausted condition when brought here, but with care and good nursing some of them recuperate; but most frequently they linger a short time and die. Everything is done for them which human sympathy can suggest, but often all effort to save them is fruitless. Of the seventeen foundling children admitted the past year, eleven are dead. It gives me pleasure to state the number of admittances to this institution of such children was less the past year than in former years.

In conclusion, gentlemen, permit me to acknowledge my obligations to the Superintendent, and his wife, the Matron or the institution, for their ready and hearty co-operation; and it is with a pleasant recollection of the good understanding which has always existed between you and myself, that I most respectfully submit this report.

SAM'L L. YOUNG, *Physician.*

BRIDGEWATER, October 1, 1864.

[illegible]

TABLE No. 3.

Showing the Number of Births in the Institution from October 1, 1863, to September 30, 1864, with a Statement of the Sex, whether Illegitimate, Birth-place of Mothers, and the whole Number since opening of Institution.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Illegitimate.			Birth-place of Mothers.			
				American Parentage.	Foreign Parentage.	Total.	U. States.	Ireland.	British Provinces.	Other Countries.
October, . . .	2	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
November, . . .	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
December, . . .	5	—	5	1	3	4	—	4	—	1
January, . . .	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
February, . . .	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
March, . . .	3	1	2	—	2	2	1	1	1	—
April, . . .	7	2	5	1	4	5	2	5	—	—
May, . . .	2	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
June, . . .	6	1	5	—	5	5	—	5	1	—
July, . . .	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
August, . . .	4	3	1	—	4	4	—	2	2	—
September, . . .	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Totals, . . .	35	14	21	3	23	26	5	21	8	1

Whole number since opening of Institution, . . . 567

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse, Bridgewater :

The usual chapel service has been observed upon the Sabbath with few interruptions, and I have occasionally visited the institution at other times, going through the neatly kept hospitals and mingling with the children. But the duty of the Chaplain being more especially to hold a single service on Sabbath morning, I have, from necessity, been mostly devoted to this work.

Such wrecks of humanity, brought together to hear the word of life, present a pitiful sight indeed. Were the inmates of the State almshouse made up of that class usually known as the "deserving poor," brought under the pressure of misfortune which they could not avert, after years of thrift and prosperity, or smitten by the sudden visitation of a mysterious but benignant Providence, we might meet with more possessing intelligent views of the Scriptures, and able to appreciate their gift to man. But we have instead, the idiotic and insane, made so in too many instances by violations of the laws of nature and of health, on their own part or that of their parents; the infirm from habits of dissipation and exposure, prematurely passed into second childhood; and that large class, depraved in heart and life, who have no penitence for the past, and no noble aspirations for the future. And yet, I have found a congregation, made up mostly of such persons as these, giving a respectful hearing to what I have had to say from Sabbath to Sabbath, and generally evincing a real interest; and as I have sometimes seen the falling tear, I have been impressed with the wonderful power of the gospel to reach down to the degraded and fallen. What have been the real results, is known only to the Searcher

of hearts. I have endeavored to adapt myself to the real wants of the inmates, with an earnest desire to do them good ; and remembering the faithfulness of the divine promises, it cannot be too much to hope that some of the seed thus promiscuously sown, may spring up and bear fruit to God's glory and praise.

I wish to renew the expression of my thanks to the Superintendent for many acts of kindness, and for the pleasure I have derived from occasional visits to the house.

Respectfully submitted.

P. LINCOLN CUSHING, *Chaplain.*

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1864.